Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Plan for 2012-13

Government of Saskatchewan

PLAN FOR 2012-13

Statement from the Minister

I am pleased to present the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's Plan for 2012-13. The Government's Direction and Budget for 2012-13 are built around *Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage*, supporting our sound economic growth so that the prosperity can be shared across the province.

Effective management of our province's water resources is essential to Keeping the Saskatchewan Advantage. The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority leads management of the province's water resources to protect water quality and ensure sustainable water supplies which are essential for economic growth, our environment, and for recreation and other social needs.

Many individuals and communities in the province experienced flooding in 2011. The Watershed Authority will continue to provide support through the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program as well as initiate longer term flood mitigation measures in areas still at risk for flooding. Infrastructure rehabilitation and safety improvements will continue to be a priority. At the same time, the effort to sustainably allocate water will continue to be supported by work on the multi-year Water Availability Study and determination of in-stream flow requirements for high priority systems.

The Watershed Authority will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2012-13 Annual Report.

The Honourable Dustin Duncan
Minister Responsible for Saskatchewan Watershed Authority

Response to Government Direction

Government has renewed its plan for 2012-13 to encourage and support the *Saskatchewan Advantage*. This plan reflects the Government's continued focus on economic growth, supporting the creation of new opportunities through strategic investments, ensuring that the prosperity is shared and our quality of life is enhanced. Government's key priorities and commitments have been supported in the context of a disciplined four-year fiscal plan and are presented in the *Government Direction for 2012-13*.

Government's Vision

"... a strong and growing Saskatchewan, the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people	Improving our quality of life	Making life more affordable	Delivering responsive and responsible government

Government's vision and four goals provide a directional framework for ministries, agencies and third parties to align with these priorities and to develop their plans to achieve greater success in the efficient delivery of government services.

All ministries and agencies will report on results achieved, or not yet achieved, in their 2012-13 annual reports. This honours Government's commitment to keep its promises and ensures greater transparency and accountability to the people of Saskatchewan.

Mission, Strategies and Actions

Mission Statement

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority leads management of the province's water resources to ensure safe drinking water sources and reliable water supplies for economic, environmental, and social benefits for Saskatchewan people.

Strategy

Ensure water supplies are sustainably used and allocated to meet the needs of a growing province

Key Actions

- Evaluate applications for water use to determine sustainability and impact on other users and decide whether to allocate requested water supplies.
- Complete delivery of the Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program to the residential sector as well as institutions, non-profit organizations, municipalities and First Nations and prepare a draft report on the program.
- Develop and implement options for further water conservation programming.
- Prepare a new reservoir operating plan for Lake Diefenbaker.
- Review operating plans for Rafferty, Alameda, and Boundary reservoirs.
- Continue the Regina East groundwater science program to provide the technical information needed to support the allocation plan.
- Begin a multi-year assessment of cumulative effects for high risk aquifers.

Strategy

Ensure water supply information is available and understood to meet the needs of a growing economy

Key Actions

- Continue the multi-year Water Availability Study, a $7.5 million project to develop the information on water supply and water use needed to support sustainable water resource decisions that can address economic growth and adjust to changes in our water supply due to climate change.
- Continue to collect and assess water quality data from critical sites related to Authority activities, including Fishing Lake, Lake Lenore, Qu'Appelle River and Qu'Appelle Valley lakes, and Lake Diefenbaker, to determine ecosystem health status and trends and inform decision making.
- Operate 300 hydrometric stations with Canada through the federal-provincial hydrometric network.
- Develop a plan to address the hydrometric data backlog so information is available for water supply evaluations.
- Provide timely hydrometric data for provincial purposes.
- Operate the 70 station provincial groundwater monitoring network (the observation well network).

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Dock Jump

Strategy

Develop and rehabilitate Authority-owned water management infrastructure to support economic growth

Key Actions

- Provide technical support to complete a feasibility study for a new water supply channel from Lake Diefenbaker to Buffalo Pound Lake.
- Undertake rehabilitation of priority works, including the following:
  - Moose Mountain Dam – Raise dam crest, enlarge spillway capacity and stabilize downstream dam slope;
  - Lumsden Flood Control Project – Replace corroded drain inlet structure 1A-3 at the Town of Lumsden; and,
  - Gardiner Dam – Design electrical system upgrades for spillway gates; replace all motors on spillway gates and improve efficiency of foundation seepage system.
- Undertake required assessments to design needed dam safety upgrades at Alameda Dam.
- Complete agreement with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada to transfer Qu'Appelle water control structures to the Authority with appropriate compensation.
- Investigate and design measures to restore some or all of the original flow capacity of the Upper Qu'Appelle channel.

Strategy

Work cooperatively with provincial, national and international governments to ensure effective water management in Saskatchewan

Key Actions

- Collaborate with the Council of the Federation partners on joint initiatives relating to water including celebration of Canada Water Week.
- Ensure all obligations under transboundary water sharing agreements, including the Prairie Provinces Water Board, are met.
- Work with the Prairie Provinces Water Board Committee on Groundwater to develop a groundwater sharing agreement.
- In compliance with the International Souris River Basin Agreement, continue monitoring water quality in Rafferty and Alameda reservoirs, the Souris River, and some of the principal tributaries upstream of the reservoirs.
- Continue to update surface water quality objectives at the 12 Prairie Provinces Water Board (PPWB) sites, located on the borders between Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba, with a priority on drafting nutrient objectives. Complete trend analysis reports. Review fish tissue data and monitoring program for PPWB sites.
- Work with Natural Resources Canada on climate change adaptation and drought and excessive moisture planning.
- Support the Ministry of Agriculture's Drought and Excessive Moisture (DEM) initiatives through the DEM monitoring committee plan.
- Represent the province on the Canadian Council of the Minister of Environment Water Coordinating Committee.

Photo Credit: Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, photo by Paul Austring, Blue Sky over Duck Mountain

Key Actions Continued

- Represent the province on the Mackenzie River Basin Board and lead the Alberta-Saskatchewan bilateral water management agreement negotiation process for the province to fulfill the obligations of the Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Waters Master Agreement.
- Continue to work cooperatively to administer the Manitoba-Saskatchewan Fishing Lake Channel Operating Agreement.
- Continue to participate in federal/provincial cost sharing arrangements for the efficient delivery of the hydrometric program.
- Review, with Canada, the hydrometric network to ensure it meets stakeholder needs and accepted criteria.

Strategy

Work with communities to identify potential water threats and ensure protection of our water resources

Key Actions

- Continue community-based source water protection planning, including completing the Lower Qu'Appelle River Watershed plan, initiating planning within the Old Wives Lake Watershed and developing a plan renewal process for established plans.
- Coordinate the implementation of Source Water Protection Plans and Agri-Environmental Group Plans in partnership with watershed groups, First Nations, landowners, and the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Provide technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture's Farm and Ranch Water Infrastructure Program.
- Support watershed groups in participating in the Land and Infrastructure Resiliency Assessment.
- Implement tangible projects with communities, First Nations, and individuals to protect water resources.

Strategy

Ensure Authority-owned water structures are safe and maintained

Key Actions

- Undertake dam safety activities to assess and manage the safety of Authority works, including the following:
  - Finalize Emergency Preparedness Plans for Gardiner, Rafferty and Alameda dams, following review by stakeholders;
  - Test Emergency Response Plans for Gardiner, Rafferty, and Alameda dams;
  - Prepare and finalize an Emergency Preparedness Plan and an Emergency Response Plan for Qu'Appelle River Dam;
  - Commission independent Dam Safety Reviews of Blackstrap South, Blackstrap North, Hugonard and Buffalo Pound dams; and,
  - Complete a condition assessment of the subsurface drainage systems for the Rafferty Dam spillway and the Qu'Appelle River Dam outlet structure.
- Review and update Probable Maximum Flood studies for Rafferty, Alameda and Boundary dams.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, Broadway Bri

Strategy

Reduce risk of flood damages in the province

Key Actions

- Assist individuals and communities to protect property from flood damage through the 2012 Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program.
- Implement longer term flood mitigation measures at areas still at risk for flooding.
- Implement recommendations, as deemed appropriate, coming out of the "Review of Lake Diefenbaker Operations 2011-2012" report.
- Provide real time hydrometric information for emergency preparedness, flood mitigation, and flood response.
- Continue to work to convert the emergency berms at Fishing Lake to long-term berms.
- Assess potential spring runoff and flood risk, forecast flood risk and notify potentially impacted communities of flood risk.
- Provide emergency advice on flood protection measures.
- Review hydrology of the 2011 flood event for future flood protection planning.
- Investigate all drainage complaints and make recommendations or orders as appropriate.

Strategy

Manage water to meet responsibilities for aquatic ecosystem and fish habitat needs

Key Actions

- Determine in-stream flow requirements for high priority systems and incorporate information into Authority allocation process.
- Determine and mitigate impacts of Authority operations on fisheries and aquatic ecosystems in collaboration with Fisheries and Oceans Canada and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment.
- Evaluate the impacts of agricultural practices on water quality through the Watershed Evaluation of Beneficial Management Practices study led by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.
- Continue to work with SaskPower, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment on the Fisheries Management Committee to determine and mitigate impacts of SaskPower operations on aquatic ecosystems.
- Assess impacts of water management on two species-at-risk, Lake Sturgeon and Piping Plover, and develop and implement conservation plans.

Photo Credit: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, photo by Jim Kroshius, Katepwa Weir

Strategy

Manage Watershed Authority lands to meet responsibilities for ecosystem health, source water protection and infrastructure management

Key Actions

- Review all lands currently held by the Authority for appropriate application of policy with the objectives of risk management, corporate accountability, best management practices and where possible, alignment with other Crown agencies.
- Continue to evaluate and, if possible, initiate options for alternative disposition of lands not essential to Authority's mandate.
- Continue to manage Authority lands to meet reservoir development, flood mitigation and waterfowl and species-at-risk management obligations.

Strategy

Improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Authority's programs and services so as to ensure the best use of public funds

Key Actions

- Establish criteria to develop and implement new water legislation.
- Continue to conduct Lean reviews of programs and services to identify and implement gains in efficiency.
- Continue development of new water allocation and compliance policies.
- Undertake strategic risk assessment as part of the annual planning cycle.
- Review the purpose, design and operation of the provincial groundwater monitoring network (observation well network).
- Complete review of the watershed planning process and make recommendations for revision of the model.
- Assess requirements for the development and implementation of effective long term flood protection programming.
- Renew the Authority's website to more effectively provide information regarding the Authority's programs and services.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Fishing on Jan La

Strategy

Work toward reconciliation in water management while meeting legal responsibilities for consultation and accommodation regarding First Nations and Métis communities

Key Actions

- Finalize agreements necessary to assist the Government of Canada to achieve a long term settlement of the First Nations' flood claims in the Qu'Appelle Valley.
- Finalize and implement Water Management Agreements with Qu'Appelle Valley First Nations to advance reconciliation with the First Nations and address the regulatory gap on reserve.
- Initiate work under Qu'Appelle Water Management Agreements to establish water quality objectives.
- Continue consultations with Fishing Lake First Nation on the Fishing Lake Emergency Channel Project.
- Engage communities in the Mackenzie Basin in discussions on development of the Mackenzie Basin Bilateral Agreement with Alberta.
- Consult with First Nations and Métis communities where the Authority is planning work that may impact Aboriginal or Treaty Rights.
- Develop operational policies to guide Duty to Consult activities.

Strategy

Attract, retain and build professional staff by supporting employee development, stimulating and directing employee engagement and enabling employees to succeed

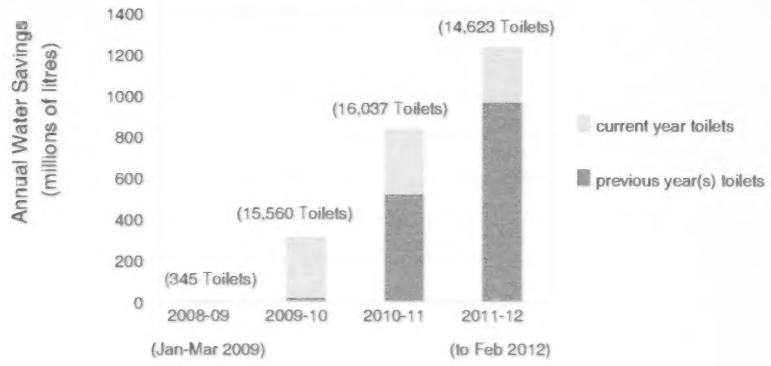
Key Actions

- Continue implementation of the five year Human Resources Management Strategy to ensure consistency with the strategic direction for the public service provided by Executive Government and to ensure strategies for the delivery of key human resource functions consider best practices, good service priority and knowledge management principles.
- Implement a Performance Management Framework to recognize and manage performance.
- Investigate, recommend and implement a Recruitment Framework, including developing an employee on-boarding program, to ensure Authority recruitment activities are successful and consider best practices.
- Continue support of staff training, skills enhancement, and career development programs as a priority and use employee training and development to support the Corporate Succession Strategy initiatives.
- Continue implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Framework which includes developing an OHS corporate-wide training program and employee orientation process.

Performance Measures

Measure

Toilets replaced and estimated annual water savings due to the Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program



Measure Description

Toilets are the largest consumer of water in a household, and the widespread transition to low flow toilets supports sustainable water use. Reduced water use also results in a reduction of CO_2 emissions due to reduced pumping requirements. The Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program, funded through Go Green Saskatchewan, began in January 2009 and provides a $50 rebate for replacing an older, 13 litre or greater toilet with a low-flow model.

This measure presents the estimated annual water savings due to toilets replaced under the program in a given fiscal year. In addition, the measure now presents the ongoing annual water savings from past toilet replacements under the program, as the one-time investment in a new toilet will continue to provide water savings as long as that toilet is in place, and this more accurately reflects the true water savings captured by the program[1]. The water savings measure is calculated on the basis of the difference between the old toilet flush volume and the new low-flow toilet flush volume and the average number of flushes per toilet per day based on average occupancy per household[2].

Between April 2011 and the end of February 2012, 14,623 toilets were replaced, accounting for an estimated 267 million litres of water savings and 765 tonnes of CO_2 avoided. Over the same time period, toilets installed in previous fiscal years saved an estimated 960 million litres of water and 2942 tonnes of CO_2.

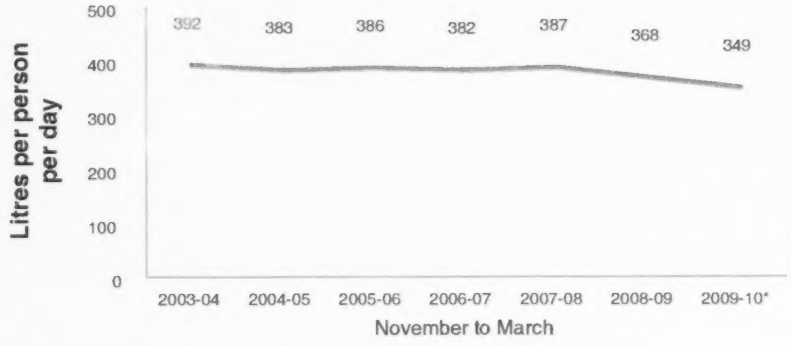
This measure supports the following strategy: ensure water supplies are sustainably used and allocated to meet the needs of a growing province.

1. Once an application is approved and verified, savings for each toilet are calculated starting on the day the application is received at a SWA office, and for every day thereafter. For that reason, toilets installed in previous years account for more water savings in a given fiscal year (365 days worth) than current year toilets (which accrue savings for fewer than 365 days of a given fiscal year).
2. Calculation is as follows: old toilet volume – new toilet volume (data provided on application) x 5 (average number of flushes per day) x 2.4 (average number of people per Saskatchewan household) x n (number of days that toilet has been in place in the current fiscal year). Assumptions: the replaced toilet is the toilet mainly used in the household; sectors other than residential follow similar usage patterns. Sources: Amy Vickers (2001). Handbook of Water Use and Conservation: Homes, Landscapes, Businesses, Industries and Farms. Amherst: Waterplow Press; Stats Canada (2006).

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Hans-Gerhard Pfaff, Downtown Regi

Measure

Winter municipal per capita water consumption



** Data is collected on a calendar year basis.*
The 2011 data required for the Nov 2010 – March 2011 timeframe is not yet available.

Measure Description

This measure indicates water conservation as it relates to municipal and First Nations community water use, including use in the home, in businesses, and for public services such as firefighting, road building, public pools and rinks. It also includes water lost due to system leakage. Only the winter consumption measure is presented, as it more clearly shows trends in municipal water use[3].

Residential water conservation is a critical component of overall municipal water conservation. In 2006, residential water use in Saskatchewan accounted for an estimated 44 per cent of the total annual municipal use[4]. Toilets alone account for an estimated 30 per cent of in-home residential use[5]. The Watershed Authority promotes conversion to low flow toilets through the Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program and raises awareness of additional water conservation opportunities through direct mail and online resources like the family water use calculator.

The data indicate an apparent downward trend in municipal water use in recent years. As the Watershed Authority's current water conservation initiatives are focused on promoting residential conservation practices, they should directly influence this measure.

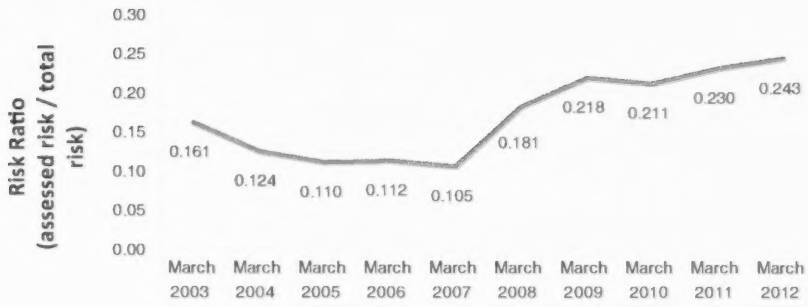
This measure supports the following strategy: ensure water supplies are sustainably used and allocated to meet the needs of a growing province.

3. Data is derived from community water use records, submitted annually to the Authority, compared to population records from current Ministry of Health data, or to current census data where Health data is not available.
4. Environment Canada. 2006. "Municipal Water Use 2006 Summary Tables." Accessed at http://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=851B096C-1#sub2 on February 18, 2010.
5. Based on toilets accounting for an estimated 30 per cent of indoor usage. Source: Environment Canada. "Water Use in the Home." Accessed at http://www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water/default.asp?lang=En&n=851B096C-1#sub2 on February 18, 2010.

Photo Credit: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, photo by Jim Kroshius, Five Mile Weir

Measure

Risk associated with Authority dams



Measure Description

This graph shows the Watershed Authority's progress in upgrading its dams to acceptable standards, and the overall risk associated with these works. As an intermediate outcome measure, the Watershed Authority uses a ratio of the assessed current risk to the total possible risk to establish targets and measure progress in reducing risk associated with its infrastructure. Risk, defined as the likelihood of a failure multiplied by the consequences of a failure, has been assessed in relative values. The Assessed Current Risk is determined by multiplying the Failure Rating and the Consequence Rating for each structure[6]. A lower ratio indicates safer infrastructure, with a ratio of zero indicating no current assessed risk. Numerically the risk ratio can be expressed as:

Risk Ratio = $\sum$ Assessed Current Risk / $\sum$ Total Possible Risk.

This performance measure replaces the former measure, "Risk associated with water management infrastructure." The new measure presents a clearer picture by focusing only on the risks related to dams and removing any risks related to improved channels and minor control structures. Dams are the most critical type of infrastructure when it comes to safety issues as their failure may involve loss of life and physical damages downstream, whereas failure of other types of infrastructure usually only pertains to water supply issues. Furthermore, a reclassification of our dams has affected the failure consequence ratings (total possible risk) used to calculate the risk. The risk for previous years has therefore been recalculated, although the year-to-year trends remain the same. Finally, the new measure better aligns with the related performance measure, "Number of dams requiring upgrades to meet safety and operational criteria."

6. The information which is used to determine Failure Likelihood values comes from a variety of sources including: annual inspections; internal and external dam safety reviews; design and assessment studies; issue identification by site staff/ project operators; and review of dam performance monitoring data. Consequence ratings are assessed for each structure and based upon an estimation of life safety, economic damages and restoration costs in the case of a failure.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, City of Bridg

Measure Description Continued

The risk ratio rose in 2011-12 principally due to increased risks at some of the Authority's Extreme and High Consequence dams. The spillway capacity at Rafferty Dam is insufficient to pass extreme inflows when the reservoir is at its maximum allowable flood level. An independent dam safety review conducted of Avonlea Dam during the year suggested that the dam freeboard may be deficient. In addition, significant corrosion of the riparian outlet pipe through the dam has occurred. Erosion arising from high flows in 2011 at Katepwa Lake and Candle Lake control structures has also increased the risk rating at these works.

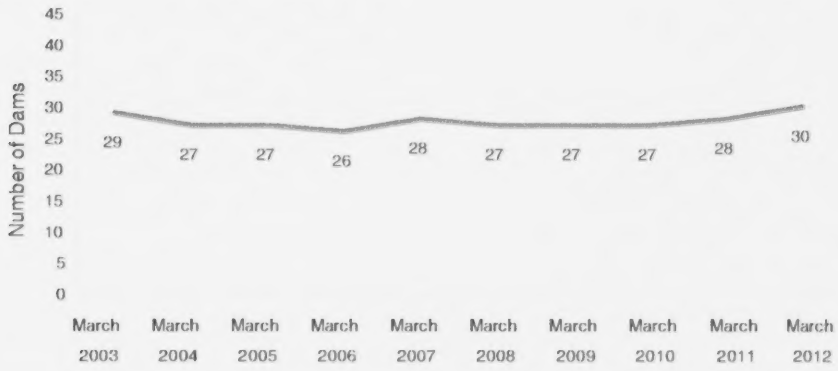
This measure is of interest to the Government as the upgrading and safety of dams is fundamental to public safety and to dependable water supplies to support the economy.

This measure supports the following strategies: develop and rehabilitate Authority-owned water management infrastructure to support economic growth; and ensure Authority-owned water structures are safe and maintained.

Photo Credit: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, photo by Vicki East, Rafferty Reservoir

Measure

Number of dams requiring upgrades to meet safety and operational criteria



Measure Description

This measure quantifies the number of Watershed Authority dams which require upgrades to meet the provisions of the Dam Safety Guidelines (2007) published by the Canadian Dam Association. The Watershed Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 45 dams and, like all provincial governments and major utilities across Canada, manages its works generally in accordance with these Guidelines. Depending upon the dam, a failure could have significant economic and safety consequences. However, unlike the risk ratio, this measure does not indicate the severity of the identified deficiencies. This measure is useful in gauging progress made over time to reduce the number of deficient dams. Dams assessed to have a Failure Likelihood of 3 or greater (maximum possible = 29) are deemed to be deficient dams[7]. As may be noted by the performance measure values of the past nine years, no progress has been achieved in this respect.

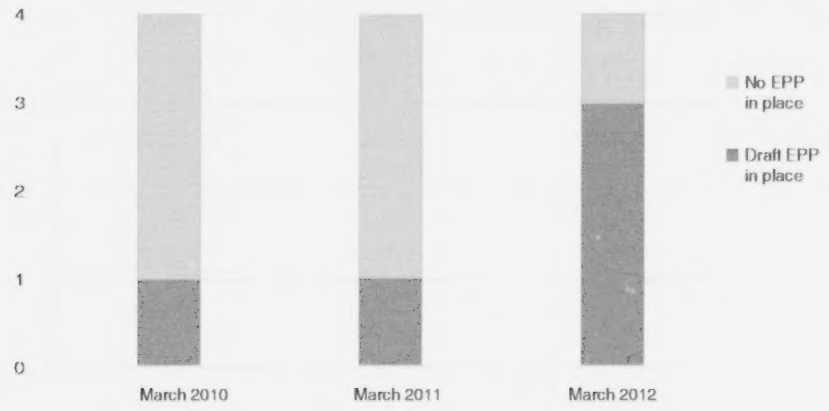
As with the previous measure, this measure is of interest to the Government as the upgrading and safety of dams is fundamental to public safety and to dependable water supplies to support the economy. This measure supports the following strategies: develop and rehabilitate Authority-owned water management infrastructure to support economic growth; and ensure Authority-owned water structures are safe and maintained.

7. The information which is used to determine Failure Likelihood values comes from a variety of sources including: annual inspections; internal and external dam safety reviews; design and assessment studies; issue identification by site staff/project operators; and review of dam performance monitoring data.

Photo Credit: Saskatchewan Watershed Authority, SWA employees, water quality monitoring, Moose Jaw Ri

Measure

Number of required Emergency Preparedness Plans (EPPs) for the Watershed Authority's four major dams



Measure Description

In the event of an emergency, a quick and knowledgeable response to the situation can potentially save lives and reduce damages. This is a measure of the number of required emergency preparedness plans (EPPs) that are in place and are current for the Watershed Authority's four major dams.

Final drafts of EPPs have been prepared for Gardiner, Rafferty and Alameda dams. These plans will be finalized in the first quarter of 2012-13, following review of the draft plans with local governments and other stakeholders. Preparation and finalization of the EPP for the Qu'Appelle River Dam is scheduled by 2012-13 fiscal year end.

The information for this measure is derived from Watershed Authority program files. This measure supports the following strategy: ensure Authority-owned water structures are safe and maintained.

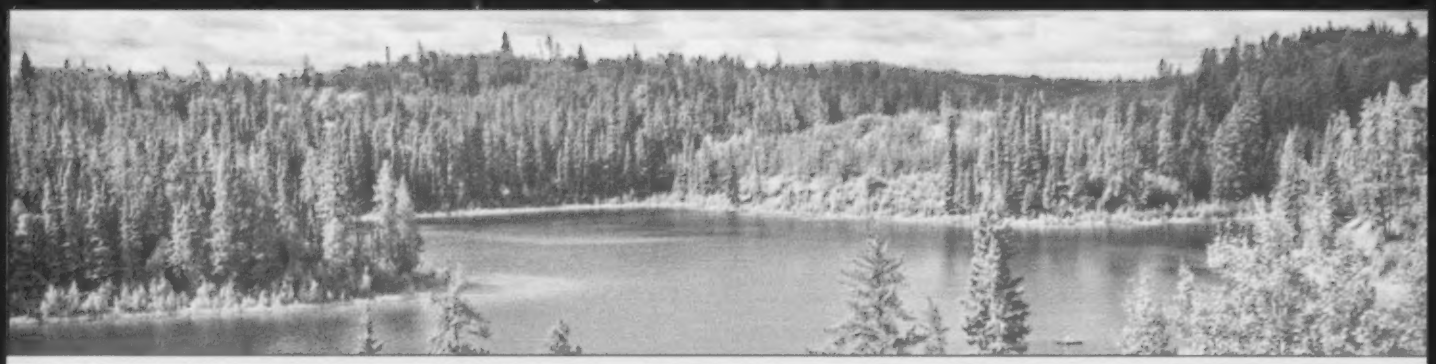


Photo Credit: Ministry of Tourism, Parks, Culture and Sport, photo by Paul Austring, Buffalo Narrows

Measure

Number of source water protection plans under development and published

Measure Description

This measure is of interest to Government as an indicator of progress toward the protection of source water, thereby supporting adequate and quality water supplies. Local advisory committee representatives develop watershed or aquifer plans, with watershed plans directed at protection of surface water and aquifer plans directed at ground water. Completed plans set water management priorities and identify emerging water issues.

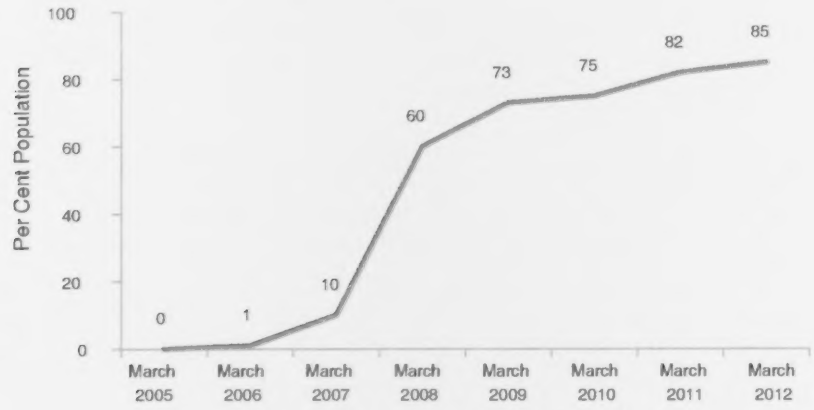
The Watershed Authority leads the planning process, directly influencing this measure. Originally, the Watershed Authority initiated seven plans and, as plans were completed and staff became available, additional planning processes were initiated. The measure illustrates that the first plan was completed in year three, and the numbers reflect that planning processes are consistently coming to completion. Information used in this performance measure is derived from Watershed Authority program files.

This measure supports the following strategy: work with communities to identify potential water threats and ensure protection of our water resources.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatoon, River Landing Riverfront Park at Du

Measure

Proportion of provincial population covered by a completed source water protection plan



Measure Description

As with the previous measure, this measure is of interest to the Government as an indicator of progress toward source water protection. This measure, however, provides some meaningful context to the number of plans by adding the percentage of the population covered. The measure indicates that the Watershed Authority has targeted early planning efforts at areas of highest population, and that the majority of the province's population (85 per cent)[8] lives in an area where a planning process has been completed.

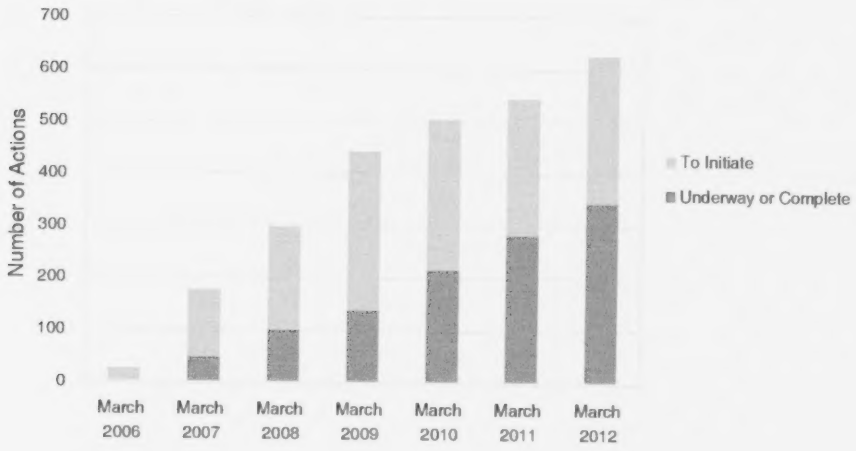
This measure supports the following strategy: work with communities to identify potential water threats and ensure protection of our water resources.

8. Population data is derived from 2006 census data.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Davin Andrie, Hunt Falls

Measure

Total number of watershed and aquifer plan key actions underway or complete in the province



Measure Description

This measure is of interest to the Government as an indicator of progress toward source water protection. Source water protection plans identify key actions needed to protect source water. Each key action specifies the organization(s) responsible for implementation. Local implementation groups lead or influence others to implement actions. The Watershed Authority provides funding and technical advice to the local implementation groups. As actions are undertaken, the degree of protection of source waters within the watersheds and aquifers is expected to increase, and water threats minimized.

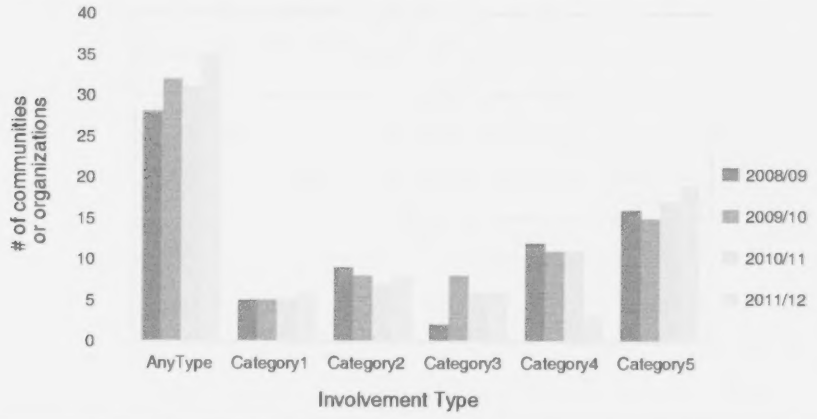
This measure illustrates the number of key actions underway or complete. Since the first plan was completed in 2006, close to 350 watershed protection actions have been undertaken within the planning areas. As new plans are completed, additional actions are identified, thus the total number of actions has been increasing over time. Data on actions underway or complete is based on information derived from quarterly reports submitted to the Authority by local implementation groups.

This measure supports the following strategy: work with communities to identify potential water threats and ensure protection of our water resources.

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Dancers, Standing Indian Buffalo Powwow

Measure

Number of First Nations and Métis communities or organizations with whom the Watershed Authority is involved



Measure Description

First Nation and Métis interest in water availability and quality is continuing to grow and may result in conflicts over use, especially in areas with water shortages. Proactive relationship building will help reduce future conflicts and contribute toward positive water management alliances. The number of communities and / or government bodies with whom the Watershed Authority, at a minimum, has a two-way dialogue, is a simple measure of the Watershed Authority's efforts to build relationships. Authority staff report this information on an annual basis, and the comprehensive results are summarized here. For this measure, the total number of communities the Watershed Authority is directly involved with is presented, along with a breakdown according to categories of involvement, as follows:

Any type: This is the total number of First Nations and Métis communities or organizations the Watershed Authority is involved with in any of the categories. The Watershed Authority may have more than one category of involvement with any given community or organization; therefore, this does not represent a sum of the five broken-out categories.

Category 1. Formal Province – First Nations / Métis agreements or negotiations: discussions underway or agreement in place

Category 2. Formal consultations (activities specific to legal duty to consult requirements)

Category 3. Advisory board or committee participation (watershed / aquifer planning or infrastructure operation): representation on Watershed Authority-led planning or advisory committees

Category 4. Community-based projects / initiatives: preliminary discussions, under development or already in place; Watershed Authority – First Nations / Métis projects

Category 5. Dialogue / information exchange / relationship-building: informal discussions with community / organization representatives, including feedback received about Watershed Authority initiatives

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Jones Peak, near Eastend

Measure Description Continued

The 2011-12 measurement results indicate the Watershed Authority is directly involved with 35 First Nations and Métis communities or organizations, with the majority of involvement falling in the category of dialogue, information exchange, or relationship-building activities (Category 5). This is a positive picture, as these types of informal relationships support the Watershed Authority's ability to engage positively in more complex arrangements. The Watershed Authority is working to grow the overall numbers, paying particular attention to activities that involve First Nations or Métis communities and organizations in advisory-type roles (Category 3).

This measure supports the following strategy: work toward reconciliation in water management while meeting legal responsibilities for consultation and accommodation regarding First Nations and Métis communities.

Financial Summary

A breakdown of the Authority's 2012-13 budgeted revenues and expenditures by major area is provided below:

2012-13 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Saskatchewan Watershed Authority	12,234
Total Appropriation	**12,234**
Total Expense	**12,234**
FTE Staff Complement	**180.5**

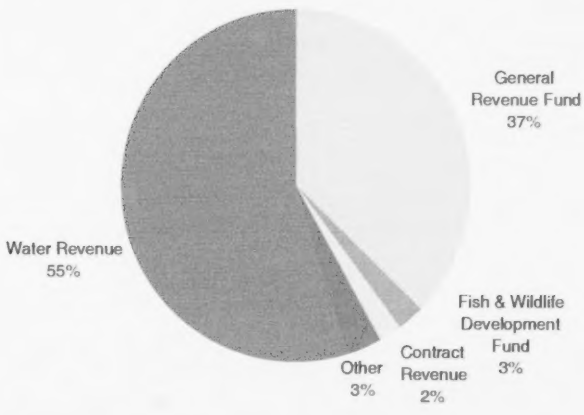
Revenue	(in thousands of dollars)
Government of Saskatchewan General Revenue Fund	12,234
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	828
Water Revenue	17,989
Contract Revenue	690
Other	1,080
Total Revenue	**32,821**

Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, Greg Huszar Photography, Elbow Marina

Expenditures	(in thousands of dollars)
Corporate Services	4,544
Watershed Planning	940
Water Quality Services	1,965
Partnerships & Plan Implementation	2,337
Water Availability Study	900
Go Green Initiatives – Toilet Replacement Rebate Program	1,800
Interjurisdictional Water Management & Administration	937
Regional Services	6,670
Groundwater Management	858
Hydrology Services	2,213
Infrastructure Management	5,777
Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program	5,000
Interest	630
Depreciation	4,350
Total Expense	38,921
Deficit for the year	**6,100**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.finance.gov.sk.ca/budget2012-13

Watershed Authority Budgeted Revenue for 2012-13



Watershed Authority Budgeted Expenditures for 2012-13

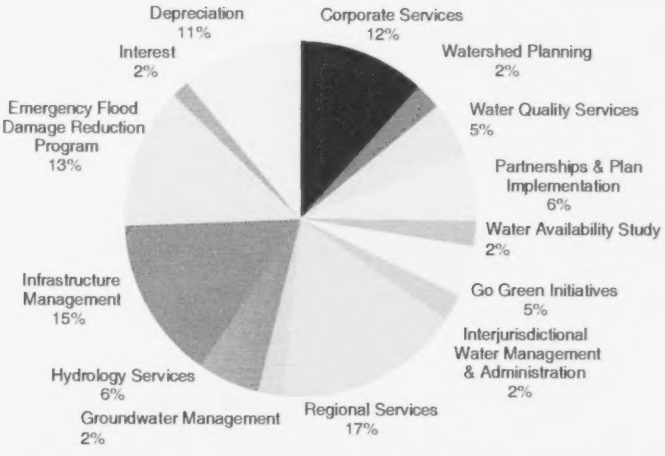


Photo Credit: Tourism Saskatchewan, David Buckley, Canoeing, MacFarlane Ri

Highlights

The following are the most significant water management initiatives being announced with this budget.

- The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority is taking steps with this budget to implement its 10-year water management infrastructure renewal plan. Under this plan the Watershed Authority will:
  - Invest $2.1 million, an increase of $1.4 million, to enhance its Dam Safety Program. The additional funding will allow the Watershed Authority to complete Emergency Preparedness Plans for Rafferty, Alameda and Gardiner dams, conduct dam safety reviews and ensure that the Authority's dam safety management activities meet industry standards.
  - Invest $6.7 million, up from $4.1 million in the last fiscal budget, to rehabilitate provincial dams and water supply channels. Priority work will occur at Alameda, Gardiner and Moose Mountain dams, as well as the Upper Qu'Appelle Water Supply Channel.
- A new allocation of $5 million will allow the Emergency Flood Damage Reduction Program to continue to provide assistance to individuals and communities at risk of flooding to initiate flood mitigation measures.
- An investment of $900,000 in the Water Availability Study will be used to develop information on water supply and water use needed to guide water management decisions.
- $1.8 million from the Go Green Fund for the final year of the Provincial Toilet Replacement Rebate Program will continue the progress over the first years of the program in encouraging water conservation.
- The budget provides $960,000 for rural municipalities and conservation and development associations for maintenance of channels and flood control works.
- Watershed Authority will provide grants totalling $830,000 to support implementation of 10 source water protection plans.

For More Information

Please visit the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority's website at www.swa.ca or call (306) 694-3900 for information on our programs and services.

Front Page Photo Credits

Canola and flax fields	*Biking, Narrow Hills Provincial Park*	*Motherwell Homestead National Historic Site of Canada*	*Saskatchewan Legislative Building*
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